

today. True, they will increase the cost of this legislation, but more importantly, they will increase our national security, which is what this bill is fundamentally supposed to accomplish.

**H.R. 2035, THE IDENTITY THEFT  
AND FINANCIAL PRIVACY ACT**

**HON. MAX SANDLIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 2035, the Identity Theft and Financial Privacy Act.

As Congress begins the process of reauthorizing various provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act FCRA, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting measures that help protect people from the growing problem of identity theft. Consumers' private financial information should be carefully guarded, and Congress must act promptly to ensure that credit bureaus provide individuals with updated, accurate information about their credit reports.

H.R. 2035 is an important first step in Congress's efforts to prevent identity theft. By requiring consumer reporting agencies to provide free credit reports annually upon the request of a consumer, this legislation will allow individuals to detect identity theft at an early stage, before their credit reports are permanently damaged. Such reports can be the determining factor behind financial institutions' decisions to extend credit for the purchase of homes and durable goods such as cars and home appliances. Credit reports damaged by stolen identity and fraud can prevent hard working individuals and families from building better lives and attaining the desirable goals of home ownership and financial security.

To that end, I am pleased that H.R. 2035 includes a provision that would require credit card issuers to confirm change of address requests if such a request is received within 30 days of a request for an additional card, and would amend the FCRA to require consumer reporting agencies to notify requesters of potential fraud when the request includes an address for the consumer that is substantially different from the most recent address on file with the consumer reporting agency.

Finally, by requiring the truncation of credit card numbers on printed receipts, H.R. 2035 will curtail a common method by which identity theft so often occurs. In many instances, criminals have easy access to individuals' credit card numbers simply by viewing those numbers on printed receipts. In 2001, 73 percent of American households had at least one credit card, making a large segment of the country vulnerable to having their financial information stolen. This legislation will thwart a significant number of would-be identity thieves by blocking most of the numbers in a person's credit card account, thereby preserving and protecting sensitive, private financial information for the vast majority of the public.

Congress has a responsibility to help the American people, and our national economy, prosper. Strengthening financial privacy laws and preventing identity theft will help to achieve these goals, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Identity Theft and Financial Privacy Act.

RECENT RUSSIAN PURCHASE OF  
AMERICAN MINE REPRESENTS  
FREE MARKET SUCCESS BENEFITING BOTH COUNTRIES

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, after the fall of the infamous Berlin Wall and break up of the Soviet Union, I advocated a Marshall Plan for Russia and the former Soviet Republics to demonstrate that democracy and a market economy is the better way for our former adversary.

It is one thing to win the Cold War but quite another to vastly improve the lives of ordinary citizens who have never known freedom. Regrettably, our government did not seize the opportunity then and instead opted for smaller and fragmented programs to encourage private sector investment.

Although we could and should have done more, a new generation of Russian entrepreneurs is boldly moving that country to a vibrant market economy, contributing to Russia's unlikely status as the world's leading growth economy of 2003.

One of the most impressive examples is the Russian oil company, YUKOS, which under the able leadership of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, has become one of the largest and best operated energy companies in the world. This is good news for Americans, in that future oil imports from Russia will significantly reduce our energy dependence on the volatile Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, another striking example of positive change in Russia today can be found in corporate governance. Business leaders, such as Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Vladimir Potanin, head of INTERROS, Russia's largest private investment company, are pressing the issue of corporate responsibility and working to set standards to insure reform and good governance to help pave the way for Russia's membership in the WTO.

The clearest sign of Russia's emergence as a player in the world economy is the recent acquisition by the Russian mining giant, Norilsk Nickel, of the Stillwater Mining Company in Montana, the largest acquisition by a Russian company in the United States.

Norilsk Nickel brings experience and a first-rate management team to complement the Montana plant's operation and competitive position. This new synergy will bring benefits to both companies, the Stillwater shareholders and workers, and the consumers—the U.S. auto industry, who depend on both plants for the palladium it uses in catalytic converters.

The transaction passed muster with two Federal agencies. The Administration's inter-agency group that looks at security-related issues on all foreign acquisitions in the U.S., and the Federal Trade Commission that scrutinizes impact of such transactions on consumers. The Stillwater shareholders also voted overwhelmingly in favor of the purchase.

Only a few years ago, it would have been all but impossible to imagine the U.S. government approving the sale of an American mining company that holds claims on the only significant sources of platinum and palladium outside of South Africa and Russia. These two precious metals are the key ingredients in the

automotive catalytic converters used to scrub pollution from exhaust emissions. They also are vital components in a wide-range of electronics and, of course, in fine jewelry as well.

Commercial transactions, such as the Norilsk Nickel-Stillwater acquisition are important to Russia. Operating on a global scale and in tune with accepted rules of Commerce and good corporate governance and also demonstrates that major East-West investments is opening the doors to opportunity for both sides.

Mr. Speaker, we need to encourage this kind of economic collaboration and rally the forces of a free market that make it possible. We should applaud the vision and dynamic leadership of Russia's new entrepreneurs and the implicit support accorded by our respective governments to encourage these bold initiatives.

**TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY,  
KANSAS, CHRISTMAS BUREAU**

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate the Johnson County Christmas Bureau for their great work in helping the needy in our community. The Johnson County Christmas Bureau is a nonprofit organization that has been bringing Christmas joy and holiday assistance to thousands in the Kansas City area for nearly forty years.

Working out of a donated office with donated storage space, every year the Bureau puts together a "Christmas shop" for the disadvantaged, where each eligible family member can get a gift, a new item of clothing, personal items, used coats and a wide array of groceries. Each individual can choose his or her items, preserving the dignity of the family while bringing joy to those in need. The Bureau has received most of its funding through individuals, schools and church organizations—they strive to keep their overhead low so that more money may be used to provide a Merry Christmas to the needy.

I want to recognize the great contribution that the Johnson County Christmas Bureau has made to the Kansas City community and to the many lives which they have brightened. Last year, the Bureau helped over eight thousand families and this year they expect to serve many more. The many people who volunteer numerous hours from their busy lives for the Christmas Bureau, just to see the joy on the faces of others, remind us how fulfilling charity can be. It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this tribute to the good works of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau.

**IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA FRANCO**

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize and honor Virginia Franco on her retirement after 23 years as an